Please enter the following amended claims:

B3 SUB C1

1. (Amended) A method for manufacturing a floor covering comprising the steps of :

scattering powder, granules or pellets of a thermoplastic material onto a first substrate to form a first coating;

leading the thus coated substrate between a pair of belts of a low pressure double belt press;

applying heat to agglomerate the coating between the belts;

smoothing the agglomerated coating between a pair of nipping rollers to provide a layer of desired thickness; and

cooling the layer.

2. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the substrate is a fibre matt material.

B4

7. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pair of nipping rollers define a gap therebetween.

B5

9. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, comprising the steps of:

applying a second substrate over the first coating;

scattering powder, granules or pellets of a thermoplastic material onto the second substrate to form a second coating;

leading the thus coated substrates between a pair of belts of a low pressure double belt press;

applying heat to agglomerate the coatings between the belts;

smoothing the agglomerated coatings between a pair of nipping rollers to provide a layered product of desired thickness; and

cooling the layered product.

B5 SUB C2

10. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the first substrate is defined by a lower one of the belts.

B6 SUB C2

12. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the second coating is of a different material than the first coating.

B7 SUB C3

17. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the basecoat is formed by a method including the steps of:

scattering a basecoat-forming material onto a saturation layer of the substrate;

leading the substrate between a pair of belts; and

applying heat to the belts to form a basecoat layer on the saturation layer.

18. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the substrate is defined by one of the belts.

B8 SUB C3

21. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, comprising a step, after heating, of leading the substrate over a smoothing roller prior to cooling.

22. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the substrate is cooled, after agglomerating, by leading the pair of belts through a cooling station.

Please add the following new claims:

B9 SUB C4

25. (New) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the substrate is a glass fibre matt material.

26. (New) A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the substrate is supported on one of the belts as it is led over the smoothing roller.

27. (New) A method as claimed in claim 1, comprising a step of leading the substrate over a smoothing roller, wherein the method includes the step of heating and/or cooling the substrate as it is led over the smoothing roller.

28. (New) A method as claimed in claim 27, wherein the substrate is heated or cooled by heating or cooling the smoothing roller.

29. (New) A method as claimed in claim 27, wherein the substrate is led over an infeed roller to the smoothing roller.

30. (New) A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the substrate is led over an outfeed roller from the smoothing roller.

31. (New) A method as claimed in claim 30, wherein the substrate is heated or cooled as it is led over the infeed and/or outfeed rollers.